

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 /021 W  
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P R 201844Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8415

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USUN NEW YORK 186

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2609

STATE ALSO FOR COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLSO, TD, US, OCON, FAO

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER OPENS FAO FISHERIES  
CONFERENCE -- URGES U.S. REFRAIN FROM  
UNILATERAL ACTION ON ECONOMIC RESOURCE  
AREA

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2600 (NOTAL)

1. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME  
MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS' ADDRESS FORMALLY OPENING  
FAO CENTRAL WESTERN ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONFERENCE IN  
PORT OF SPAIN OCTOBER 20. FULL TEXT WILL BE CABLED  
WHEN AVAILABLE LATER TODAY.

2. WILLIAMS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES RESOURCES  
TO CARIBBEAN STATES AND TERRITORIES AND NOTED  
SIGNIFICANCE OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD IN PORT  
OF SPAIN IN ECLA CONTEXT IN JANUARY 1976 TO TRY TO AGREE  
ON A SHARING OF THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE CARIBBEAN  
BASIN AMONG ISLAND AND RIPARIAN STATES. HE CITED THE  
"SERIOUS INEQUITIES" WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE CARVING  
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UP OF THE CARIBBEAN INTO ECONOMIC ZONES UNDER NATIONAL

JURISDICTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPTS EMERGING FROM THE WORLD LOS NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE, THEREFORE, THE CARIBBEAN AREA REACH AGREEMENT ON SUB-ZONAL ARRANGMENTS WITHIN OVERALL LAW OF THE SEA WHICH WOULD PROTECT TRADITIONAL FISHERIES ON WHICH CARIBBEAN STATES WERE SO HIGHLY DEPENDENT AND PROVIDE FOR EQUITABLE SHARING OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC ZONES. WITHIN CONTEXT OF TRADITIONAL FISHERIES, HE ALSO MENTIONED IMPORTANCE TO CARIBBEAN FISHERMEN OF NORTHEASTERN COASTAL AREAS OFF SOUTH AMERICA.

3. DR. WILLIAMS STATED STRONG HOPE THAT THE CURRENT DELIBERATIONS WITHIN THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD NOT LEAD TO UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES TO CLAIM JURISDICTION OVER THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES 200 MILES OFF OF THE U.S. COAST PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS OF AN EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA. HE SAW THE PRECEDENT OF SUCH UNILATERAL U.S. ACTION AS HIGHLY UNFORTUNATE AND POSSIBLY FRUSTRATING TO THE HOPE FOR A COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN.

4. WILLIAMS CALLED UPON BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY TO MAXIMIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE FISHERIES RESOURCES. CITING THE IMPORTANCE OF FISH PROTEIN TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, HE NOTED THAT 50 POUNDS OF FISH ARE CONSUMED PER CAPITA PER YEAR IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WHILE AT PRESENT ONLY 18 POUNDS ARE OBTAINED FROM THE COUNTRY'S OWN FISH CATCH. CLOSING THIS GAP IS AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PLOS, OCON, TD, US, XL, FAO, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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